

# Tagging Tachyon Agent devices

## Summary

Tachyon Agent devices can have a number of custom tags assigned using Tachyon and the Tachyon agents. There are two types of tag: [coverage tags](#), which can be used in the scopes for questions and actions to help target specific collections of devices; and [freeform tags](#) that can be queried and set using specific questions and actions.

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A quick tutorial on adding properties and values for use when setting the coverage for questions.

### [Actions to set tags - tutorial](#)

A quick tutorial on adding properties and values for use when setting the coverage for questions.

### [Using tags to set the coverage for a question - tutorial](#)

A quick tutorial on using predefined tags when setting the coverage for a question.

## Coverage versus freeform tags

Tachyon supports two kinds of tag that can be used to set properties on Tachyon Agent devices. The Agent stores both types of tag in persistent storage. Values are set or deleted using actions and queried using questions. The differences are described below.

Tag type	Description
Coverage	<p>Can also be used when defining the coverage for questions and actions. A Tachyon <a href="#">Custom Properties Administrator</a> must define the names and values for Coverage tags before they can be applied to devices using Coverage tag actions.</p> <p>Once set by an action, the Agent reports coverage tags back to the System where they are stored in the Tachyon Master database for each device, which is how they can be used to define coverage for questions and actions.</p> <p>The Agent regularly reports back its list of tags. The list consists of a separator and name=value for each tag plus a final separator at the end of the list. The entire list must not exceed 511 bytes. Any tags that exceed this limit are not reported back. Only the tags reported back by each Agent can be used for coverage. Therefore the length of tag names and values should be kept short if many different tags are to be used. The maximum length of a tag name is 16 characters, and the maximum length of a tag value is 32.</p> <p>More details on the Coverage tag workflow are given below, including links to associated tutorials.</p>
Freeform	<p>Cannot be used when defining the coverage for a question.</p> <p>Freeform tags can be set with arbitrary names and values that are defined only when running a Freeform tag action.</p>

## The Coverage tag workflow

You create and manage Coverage tags via the **Custom properties** page in the **Administration** section.

Tachyon enables Coverage tag properties to be created and set on Tachyon Agent devices, which can then be used when setting the coverage for a question. The basic workflow is:

1. A Tachyon [Custom Properties Administrator](#) defines the name of a Coverage tag and one or more associated values. See [Adding properties - tutorial](#) for more details on this step.
2. Actioners with permissions to the Agent tags product pack run actions that use the defined properties and values and assign them to particular Tachyon Agent devices. See [Actions to set tags - tutorial](#) for more details on this step.
3. Questioners can then use the **Tags** parameter, when defining the coverage for a question, to constrain the coverage to particular properties and values thereby targeting particular Tachyon Agent devices. See [Using tags to set the coverage for a question - tutorial](#) for more details on this step.